



HISTORICAL LEGEND

WILLIAM A. "BILL" CLEMENT
1947-2013

Recently married and eager to start his oil and gas career, Bill and his bride drove 1700 miles from Goshen, New York to Houston, Texas for his employment interview in June 1973. Bill was hired by Conoco for the Corpus Christi office, and commenced a steep learning curve.

Don Brown, the head geologist, sent Bill to Carrizo Springs to sit wells that were drilling in the Wilcox formation. This was sink or swim training. As a green Yankee, Bill endured friendly harassment from rig hands and office co-workers. Learning the difference between a pickled pepper and a pickled jalapeno pepper was quite amusing to one of Bill's lunch mates early on. Don warned Bill to have accurate reports to avoid Bill's name be "argillaceous". As in... mud.

Bill sped across the 175 mile one-way trip to Carrizo in a company car. On those roads speed was the norm. In 1973 Coors beer was not available in Corpus so it was expected that the geologist sitting in west Texas would fill the trunk with cases of Coors before heading back to the office. By the time he left Corpus, which initially seemed like a different planet, Bill had earned respect and acceptance both professionally and socially from his new Texan friends.

Since Bill was on Conoco's training regimen, he was transferred to the Oklahoma City office in October 1973. Stuart Kirk and Pat Colton were his geology mentors. Pat commented, "He was incredibly good at stratigraphic plays-he had an innate sense of being able to predict with accuracy where a given formation would clean up and become an oil and

gas bearing zone. He used cross sections and isopachs to great effect." Bill spent many weeks in Ponca City learning computer modeling and 2-D seismic interpretation. As Conoco adjusted to the 1973 OPEC oil embargo, Bill was permanently assigned to the Oklahoma City office instead of moving on to Denver for further training. This was a surprise company decision that determined Bill's career path. Oklahoma offered the opportunity to "live long and prosper."

Bill published an AAPG paper entitled "A Case History of Geoseismic Modeling of Basal Morrow Springer Sandstones, Watonga-Chickasha Trend" in 1977. His fascination with geology was growing deeper as the tools he was learning began to fit in with the basics of college. Fascination was evolving to excitement as possibilities expanded.

An-Son Corporation hired Bill away from Conoco with the offer that Bill could participate financially in drilling his prospects. This was a concept that Bill thought irresistible. Bill's father was a high school physics teacher in Southampton, NY. Education is a noble profession, but Bill knew all too well the reality of living in a high rent neighborhood on a teacher's salary.

The team at An-Son was young and ambitious. Bill and Brad Johnson used every bit of new technology to develop prospects. At one time, nearly 24 drilling rigs were running on Bill's prospects. Bill published an AAPG paper entitled "East Clinton Field, USA" in 1991. While at An-Son, Bill discovered many new fields: Clinton-Weatherford -Red Fork (significant wells Meacham 1-13, Nelda Ruth 1-13 and Anna 1-14), Colony-Morrow and Granite Wash (Bill's vision for the Granite Wash potential here predated the advent of horizontal drilling which made the field commercial and Chesapeake eventually developed into a 60 well field), Fort Cobb, Braithwaite-Granite Wash, Cordell-Granite Wash, Morrow, Dill City

Granite Wash, Foss-Red Fork, Hydro-Springer, Watonga-Chickasha-Morrow/Springer and South Panola-Spiro. None of this science could be profitably utilized without the landmen at An-Son. The land department was fearless in pursuing leases. Fred Standefer, John Cockerell, Jeff Smith and Sue Roberts were especially invaluable. Their work was huge as prospects multiplied.



After 15 years at An-Son, Bill and Jeff Smith went out on their own to found Smith-Clement Exploration, where they developed and sold prospects. Since they were on a slim budget, Jeff and Bill at first thought they could share a desktop computer. That lasted about 2 1/2

hours before they invested in another computer. Sadly, SCX was short lived. Jeff died suddenly and Smith-Clement morphed into Stone Canyon Exploration.

Fred Standefer recruited a team of engineers, geoscientists and land professionals who invested their personal funds to start a new enterprise. Bill was asked to examine drilling possibilities in Kay County by interpreting Hubbard 3-D seismic. This new entity commenced by redeveloping one of Oklahoma's famous old fields, Tonkawa.

In 2003, the Texas panhandle was the newest target. Range Resources contracted Bill to analyze well data, 3-D seismic and stratigraphic modeling. His discoveries included the Courson Ranch Upper Morrow field, TEW Hunt field and D.D. Payne Granite Wash. Keith Derrick in the land department was vital on these projects. Bill credited his father and college professors for fostering his love of science by exhibiting enthusiasm and delight in nature. Birding, fishing, and hunting were a big part of his life growing up on eastern Long Island. Salt or fresh, spin casting

or fly fishing, Bill was never far from water. In Oklahoma he found a way to fish by purchasing lake property in Logan County. The property was his renewal place, not just a fishing place, and still is for his family. Woodcarving and sketching, especially water fowl, were creative pastimes for Bill. Later he took up fly tying. It is the goal of a fly fisher to catch a coveted fish on his/her own fly. Bill did it many times.

Besides his career Bill contributed to his community. Boy Scout Troop 21 had an in-house geology merit badge instructor. Bill wrangled camping equipment, chow boxes, tents and propane tanks for the Troop. Bill was a consistent and frequent donor to the Oklahoma Blood Institute. O negative is the universal donor type so many patients benefited.

Bill's Trust sponsors a STEM scholarship at his alma mater State University of New York. His SUNY Earth Sciences Department also receives Field Camp Funds so current students can benefit from summer field camp. Field camp in the Uintas was one of Bill's favorite college memories.

Although Bill died in 2013, his wonderful spirit lives on. Marilyn is proud to have been his wife of 40 years. Bill and Marilyn's three children and their families have been a source of joy and pride. Blessings abound.

Bill practiced his profession as a geoscientist with passion and persistence. He infused his work with an optimism that was both boundless and uplifting to those around him. He relished his life's work.

